

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-42, all of which were rejected in the above-mentioned official action. Claims 1-42 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks submitted below.

The specification was objected to for use of the term "form" on page 3, line 9. Applicant has amended the specification to remove this word. Applicant believes that this objection has now been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 18, 22, 25, 30, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lorie (U.S. Patent 5,933,531) in view of Fleming (U.S. Patent 6,473,752). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Lorie describes a method for verification and correction of automatic optical character recognition (OCR) results. After OCR on a batch of documents, an automatic context analyzer processes the fields that are good enough (in terms of the confidence of the OCR results) to expect resolution by the context analyzer. This step aims to accept as many fields as possible without any operator intervention (col. 3, lines 24-30, and col. 5, lines 62-67). For some

other fields, operator input is used to certify or correct the OCR results for a certain percentage of the characters, so that automatic context analysis may accept some of the remaining fields (col. 3, lines 31-34). Fields that are still not resolved can be shown to the operator for acceptance, correction or entry (col. 3, lines 37-40).

Fleming describes a system for locating computer documents or data of interest to a user, by detecting the selection of computer documents by the user and monitoring the user's interaction with the documents. One of the factors used to measure the importance of a term or topic to the user is the total time of access by the user to a document containing the term or topic (col. 7, lines 15-17).

Claim 1 in the present patent application recites a method for evaluating verification of data by an operator. The method includes measuring a time duration over which the operator interacts with a display in verifying data presented on the display, and evaluating the verification of the data by the operator responsive to the time duration. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner maintained that "Lorie further teaches evaluating the verification of the data by the operator responsive to the time duration," citing col. 9, line 40, of Lorie in support.

The cited passage reads as follows:

"c) evaluating results obtained by said automatic context analysis, to identify characters requiring further processing;"
(emphasis added).

In this passage, Lorie is clearly describing evaluation of results obtained by a computerized process (automatic context analysis), and not evaluating results of verification by a human operator, as recited in claim 1. Besides the explicit recitation of automatic context analysis in the passage above, Lorie relates to context analysis throughout his disclosure as an automatic process, which is distinct from operator verification (see, for example, col. 3, lines 24-29). Lorie also describes the evaluation of the results of context analysis as an automatic process (col. 4, lines 10-30). User-assisted verification is a separate step, performed after the automatic context analysis and evaluation are done. This distinction is shown by the passage in Lorie immediately following the one cited by the Examiner (col. 9, lines 43-49).

Furthermore, even if the cited passage in Lorie were considered somehow to read on evaluating operator verification, there is still no mention in this passage - nor is there any suggestion anywhere else in Lorie - of evaluating the verification responsive to a time duration as required by

claim 1. Although Fleming describes measurement of a user's time of interaction with a document, he makes no suggestion that this measurement might be used for purposes of verification of any sort.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art does not relate to evaluating the verification of data by an operator, let alone suggesting that such evaluation be performed responsively to the time duration over which the operator interacts with a display in verifying the data, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 1, claims 6, 7 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be patentable, as well.

Independent claims 18 and 25, respectively, recite data verification apparatus and software that operate on principles similar to the method of claim 1. These claims were rejected under similar rationale to the rejection of claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Applicant believes claims 18 and 25 to be patentable over the cited art, as are claims 22, 30, 31 and 33, which depend from these independent claims.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 2-5, 8, 10-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 32 and 34-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lorie in view of Fleming and further in view of one or more of Matsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,470,336), deCarmo et al. (U.S. Patent 6,181,339), Strub et al. (U.S. Patent 6,563,532), Burch (U.S. Patent 6,295,387), Graves (U.S. Patent 6,454,173), Allen (U.S. Patent 4,256,953), Melville et al. (U.S. Patent 5,982,555), Radomsky et al. (U.S. Patent 6,600,899) and Graham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,281,879). In view of the patentability of independent claims 1, 18 and 25, from which these claims depend, claims 2-5, 8, 10-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 32 and 34-42 are believed to be patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, even if the independent claims were conceded to be obvious, the dependent claims are believed to be independently patentable. In the interest of brevity, however, Applicant will not argue the patentability of the individual dependent claims at this point.

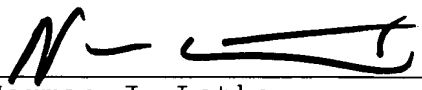
Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection and objections raised by the examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present

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application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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